

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06562 01 OF 02 172004 Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-09 INR-10 IO-12

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 /114 W

----- 093377

P R 171150 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 290

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC FRANCE

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG BANGKOK

WHITE HOUSE

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

USAJFKCMA

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN CAN THO

AMCONGEN DANANG

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

CO 7 TH PSYOPS GP OKINAWA

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 06562 01 OF 02 172004 Z

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 6562

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS

SUBJECT: EMBASSY SAIGON' S MISSION WEEKLY APRIL 11-17, 1973

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/ W; CINCPAC
FOR POLAD AND DOD PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS- WL- DSA

- THE ELEVENTH WEEK OF THE CEASEFIRE
- UPPER HOUSE BEGINS WORK ON ELECTION BILL
- AN QUANG' S INTERNAL PROBLEMS PERSIST
- PRESIDENT THIEU RETURNS TO SAIGON
- SAIGON MEDIA
- FRENCH RELATIONS WITH GVN, DRV UPGRADED
- GVN BOYCOTTS ASEAN MEETING
- GVN/ PRG BILATERALS MARK TIME
- DRV DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO PARIS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS
- CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION LEAVES HANOI
- BINH TRANSITS PEKING ENROUTE TO NORTH KOREA
- LPF DELEGATION FETED IN HANOI
- XUAN THUY VISITS MOSCOW, BUCHAREST
- DRV AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO SWISS
- SIHANOUK LEAVES HANOI
- PRICES DECLINE AGAIN
- BLACK MARKET CURRENCY AND GOLD RATES
- EXPORTS INCREASE

I. INTERNAL

A. THE ELEVENTH WEEK OF THE CEASEFIRE

THE ELEVENTH WEEK SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BROUGHT LITTLE PROGRESS IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. FIGHTING FLARES SPASMODICALLY IN ALL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. ENEMY PRESSURE IN THREE AREAS -- HONG NGU/ TAN CHAU, IN THE DELTA; TONG LE CHAN, IN MR 3; AND WNW OF HUE -- CONTINUES ESPECIALLY TO EXASPERATE THE GVN. A SHIFT TO A MORE OFFENSIVE POSTURE DESIGNED TO PREEMPT EMENY
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 06562 01 OF 02 172004 Z

INITIAITVES MAY RESULT; THIS MAY HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED IN THE DELTA. THE COMMUNIST BUILD- UP CONTINUES, BUT INTENTIONS ARE UNCLEAR. HOWEVER, SENIOR GVN FIELD COMMANDERS IN ALL REGIONS APPEAR TO EXPECT A RENEWED OFFENSIVE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS -- THEIR PREDICTIONS OF THE EXACT TIMING VARY -- AND ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS ACCORDINGLY.

MUCH PRESS ATTENTION WAS ATTRACTED DURING THE WEEK BY GVN EFFORTS TO EFFECT THE PASSAGE UP THE MEKONG TO PHNOM PENH OF NINE SHIPS CARRYING BADLY NEEDED SUPPLIES. AFTER COMMITMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL RVNAF STRENGTH, SEVEN OF THE NINE SHIPS ON THE THIRD ATTEMPT MADE IT

TO PHNOM PENH ON APRIL 15. RVNAF UNITS MOVED ACROSS THE CAMBODIAN BORDER SHORT DISTANCES THIS WEEK IN PREEMPTIVE SPOILING OPERATIONS AND TO ASSIST THE SHIP PASSAGE; PRESS REPORTS OF A MASSIVE ARVN INVASION OF CAMBODIA ARE EXAGGERATED, HOWEVER.

NEITHER THE ICCS NOR THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) MADE ANY PROGRESS THIS WEEK. THE FORMER, OPERATING UNDER THE PALL CAST BY THE APRIL 7 QUANG TRI HELICOPTER SHOOT- DOWN WHICH COST NINE LIVES, HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE TRAGEDY NOR DECIDED HOW IT WILL AFFECT FUTURE ICCS OPERATIONS, IF AT ALL. OPINIONS DIFFER AS TO WHETHER THE HELICOPTERS WERE ON COURSE OR NOT WHEN THEY WERE SHOT DOWN; HOWEVER, THE POINT -- WHICH HAS NOT BEEN LOST ON THE SHOCKED AND OUTRAGED CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN MEMBERS OF THE ICCS -- IS WHY THE " PRG", WHICH PROVIDED ON- BOARD LIAISON OFFICERS AND NAVIGATORS AND GUARANTEED SAFE PASSAGE, FIRED ON THE HELICOPTERS.

THE HELICOPTER TRAGEDY ELICITED THE STRONGEST CANADIAN AFFIRMATION TO DATE THAT THE DRV IS VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT. ON APRIL 15, WHILE DENOUNCING THE DEATHS OF THE NINE HELICOPTER VICTIMS, CANDEL CHIEF AMBASSADOR GAUVIN ASSERTED THE " REASONABLE POSSIBILITY" THAT THEY WERE KILLED " AT THE HANDS OF TROOPS WHOSE PRESENCE IN SVN IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT." MOREOVER, HE ADDED, " WE HAVE STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE" THAT ELSEWHERE IN SVN " NON- SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE STATIONED IN- OR ARE INFILTRATING, SVN."

B. UPPER HOUSE BEGINS WORK ON ELECTIONS BILL.

THE UPPER HOUSE INTERIOR COMMITTEE, HEADED BY OPPOSITION SENATOR HONG SON DONG, IS BEGINNING TO STUDY THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION BILL. MANY SENATORS REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT THERE WILL BE AN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION AT ALL THIS YEAR, GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE GVN/ PRG TALKS IN PARIS OVER THE " POLITICAL FUTURE OF SOUTH VIETNAM."

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 06562 01 OF 02 172004 Z

SENTIMENT APPEARS FAIRLY STRONG AMONG SENATORS TO AMEND THE ELECTION BILL, ESPECIALLY BY RELAXING THE PROVISION REQUIRING LISTS TO BE SPONSORED BY PARTIES FULLY QUALIFIED UNDER DECREE LAW 060. THIS RESTRICTION MIGHT BAR PARTIES OTHER THAN THE DEMOCRACY PARTY FROM RUNNING CANDIDATES SINCE BOTH THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (THE ONLY OTHER PARTIES REGISTERED UNDER THE DECREE LAW) WILL HAVE AN UPHILL FIGHT TO QUALIFY BY ELECTION- LIST TIME THIS SUMMER.

SHOULD THE UPPER HOUSE AMEND THE BILL, THE LOWER HOUSE MAY HAVE A HARD TIME MUSTERING THE TWO- THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED ON SECOND- ROUND ACTION TO RESTORE ITS FORMER VERSION. THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENTIAL AMENDMENTS WOULD THEN ARISE, A LAST- ROUND PROCEDURE WHICH USUALLY GIVES THE PRESIDENT HIS WAY.

C. AN QUANG'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS PERSIST.

THE INTERNAL DEIVISIONS WITHIN AN QUANG CONTINUE TO SURFACE IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE. FOLLOWING THE EXPULSION OF SENATOR TRAN QUANG THUAN FROM THE BUDDHIST PARLIAMENTARIANS LIAISON GROUP ON MARCH 31, OTHER MODERATELY OPPOSITIONIST SENATORS (NOTABLY THUAN' S CLOSE COLLEAGUE TON THAT NIEM) HAVE EITHER LEFT THE BPLG VOLUNTARILY OR HAVE BEEN OUSTED BY THE SAME GROUP OF EXTREME OPPOSITIONISTS. THE BPLG APPEARS TO HAVE DISINTEGRATED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, AS AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION.

THUAN IS CONSIDERED AN ALLY OF VENERABLE THIEN MINH, THE ACTING RECTOR OF AN QUANG' S VIEN HOA DAO. THEY AND CERTAIN OTHER CENTRAL VIETNAMESE IN THE AN QUANG STRUCTURE ARE RESENTED BY MANY SOUTHERNERS IN THE HEIRARCHY WHO SEE THEIR OWN ROLE DIMINISHING FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE FORMER RECTOR, VENERABLE THIEN HOA, WHO WAS A SOUTHERNER

THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06562 02 OF 02 171540 Z

45
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-09 INR-10 IO-12 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 ADP-00 /114 W
----- 091302

P R 171150 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 291
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USDEL JEC FRANCE
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG BANGKOK
WHITE HOUSE

CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
USAJFKCMA
AMCONGEN BIEN HOA
AMCONGEN CAN THO
AMCONGEN DANANG
AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
CO 7 TH PSYOPS GP OKINAWA
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 06562 02 OF 02 171540 Z

CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 6562

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/ W; CINCPAC
FOR POLAD AND DOD PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS- WL- DSA

II. EXTERNAL.

A. FRENCH RELATIONS WITH GVN, DRV UPGRADED.

A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE (FBIS SAIGON 131123 Z) ANNOUNCED THE RESUMPTION
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND GVN EFFECTIVE FRIDAY,
13 APRIL. A SIMILARLY BRIEF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN HANOI ON 12 APRIL
ANNOUNCED THE RUPGRDING OF THE DELEGATES GENERAL IN HANOI AND PARIS
TO EMBASSY STATUS. (FBIS OKINAWA P121150 Z).

B. GVN BOYCOTTS ASEAN MEETING.

THE GVN DECIDED AGAINST SENDING AN OBSERVER DELEGATION TO THE
APRIL 16-18 ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING. THIS DEPARTURE FROM PAST
PRACTICE FOLLOWED A CONFUSED EXCHANGE WITH THAILAND (SAIGON 5048 WEEK
A)
AND REFLECTS GVN DISPLEASURE WITH SIME RECENT ASEAN OFFERS OF AID
TO INDOCHINA WHICH WERE CONSIDERED SOMEWHAT PRETENTIOUS ON THE PART
OF A GROUP OF NATIONS WHICH ARE THEMSELVES AID RECIPIENTS.

C. GVN/ PRG BILATERALS MARK TIME

THE SIXTH PLENARY MEETING OF GVN/ PRG BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS
CALLED FOR BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT WAS HELD APRIL 12. THE GVN
SLIGHTLY MODIFIED ITS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED AGENDA IN ORDER TO MAKE
IT RESEMBLE MORE CLOSELY THE PRG' S AGENDA PROPOSAL BUT THE LATTER
TURNED DOWN THE GVN MOVE, COMMENTING THAT IT CONTAINED NOTHING NEW.
THE PRG INSTEAD PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MEANS TO STABALIZE THE
SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AMONG WHICH WOULD BE ELIMINATION OF US
POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTERVENTION. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING
THE PLENARY, GVN CHIEF DELEGATE VIEN ACCUSED THE OTHER SIDE OF
DELIBERATELY STALLING CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR A NEW
MILITARY OFFENSIVE. THE NEXT PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 18.

D. DRV DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO PARIS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON APRIL 15 PASSED A
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 06562 02 OF 02 171540 Z

DIPLOMATIC NOTE VIA THE VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY FOR FORWARDING TO THE
GOVERNMENTS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE FEBRUARY 26-29 INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM. IN THE NOTE, HANOI ACCUSED THE US AND THE
GVN OF SERIOUSLY VIOLATING " ESSENTIAL PROVISIONS" OF THE PARIS
AGREEMENT AND, THEREBY, BRINGING ABOUT AN " EXTREMELY SERIOUS
SITUATION" WHICH " POSES A DIRECT THREAT TO PEACE IN SVN."

THE NOTE WARNS THAT " IF THE VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT
SHOULD CONTINUE, PEACE CANNOT BE MAINTAINED FOR A LONG PERIOD IN VIET

-
NAM" AND DEMANDS THAT THE GVN HALT OPERATIONS AGAINST THE " LIBERATED
ZONE", STOP PACIFICATION AND POLICE OPERATIONS IN ZONES UNDER GVN
CONTROL, INSTITUTE " DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES" IN THE LATTER AREAS, AND
RETURN TO THE VIET CONG ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN GVN
CUSTODY. FOR ITS PART THE US MUST " END ITS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT"
AND " INTERFERENCE" IN SVN' S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, " SCRUPULOUSLY" CARRY
OUT MINE REMOVAL, AND CEASE ALL ACTS ENCROACHING UPON THE " SOVEREIGNTY

AND SECURITY" OF THE DRV (PRESUMABLY MEANING OVERFLIGHTS). THE NOTE
" PROPOSES" TO RECIPIENT NATIONS THAT THEY " FIRMLY CONDEMN" THE
ALLEGED VIOLATIONS BY THE US AND GVN.

COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE COMMUNISTS HAVE AVAILED THEMSELVES

OF ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONFERENCE' S FINAL ACT TO COMMUNICATE THEIR VIEWS
AND CONCERNS TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS. THE ROUTINE NATURE OF THE
ALLEGATIONS AND THE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED LANGUAGE EMPLOYED SUGGEST
THE MOVE IS MORE " FOR THE RECORD" THAN FOR EFFECT.

E. CZECHOSLOVAK DELGATION LEAVES HANOI.

A DELEGATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDED
AN EIGHT- DAY VISIT TO HANOI ON APRIL 11. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED
THAT DAY NOTED THAT THE CZECHS HAILED THE " GREAT VICTORY" OF THE
VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, CONDEMNED THE US AND GVN FOR THEIR " DELIBERATE,
SERIOUS, AND SYSTEMATIC VIOLATIONS" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND
PLEDGED " TO GIVE ALL- OUT ASSISTANCE" TO RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

EFFORTS IN THE DRV.

F. BINH TRANSITS PEKING ENROUTE TO NORTH KOREA.

VIET CONG FOREIGN MINISTER NHUYEN THI BINH WRAPPED UP A THREE-
DAY VIST TO MONGOLIA ON APRIL 9 AND WAS NOTED BY THE NCNA IN PEKING
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 06562 02 OF 02 171540 Z

APRIL 10

" ENROUTE TO OTHER COUNTRIES." SHE TALKED WITH PREMIER CHOU AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG- FEI THE FOLLOWING EVENING. MEANWHILE, THE VIET CONG FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED, ALSO ON APRIL 10, THAT BINH WAS TO LEAD A VC DELEGATION ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO NORTH KOREA " IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

G. LPF DELEGATION FETED IN HANOI.

A DELEGATION OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT, LED BY NOUHAK PHONGSAVAN, ARRIVED IN HANOI ON APRIL 13, THE DELEGATION WAS TREATED TO THE USUAL FLURRY OF BANQUETS AND RECEPTIONS AT WHICH, FROM ALL APPEARANCES, LITTLE OF REAL SUBSTANCE WAS AID. THE LPF DELEGATION LEFT HANOI ON APRIL 16 BOUND FOR " OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES."

H. XUAN THUY VISITS MOSCOW, BUCHAREST.

DRV MINISTER OF STATE XUAN THUY ARRIVED IN MOSCOW APRIL 8 WHERE HE MADE THE STANDARD ROUND OF TOURS AND CONFERRED WITH CPSU LEADERS SUSLOV AND KATUSHEV, AND WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN. HE LEFT MOSCOW FOR BUCHAREST APRIL 12 AND WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY BURTICA TURCUS, AND OTHER RCP LEADERS. THUY WAS RECEIVED BY CEAUSESCU ON APRIL 14 AND, ACCORDING TO HANOI'S VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED ROMANIAN SUPPORT FOR NORTH VIETNAM.

I. DRV AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO SWISS.

VNA REPORTED ON APRIL 13 THAT HANOI'S AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND, LE TRANG, HAD ON APRIL 11 PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO ROGER BONVIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL.

J. SIHANOUK LEAVES HANOI.

EXILED CAMBODIAN PRINCE SIHANOUK ARRIVED IN PEKING ON APRIL 11 FROM HANOI WHERE HE HAD STOPPED OVER ENROUTE FROM THE " LIBERATED ZONE" OF CAMBODIA. BOTH THE PRINCE AND HIS HANOI PATRONS USED THE OCCASION FOR HARD- LINE STATEMENTS ON THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION, WITH THE PARTY DAILY, NHA DAN, BOASTING IN ITS APRIL 12 EDITORIAL THAT IN CAMBODIA THE COMMUNISTS WERE " PREPARED FOR PROTRACTED STRUGGLE UNTIL FINAL VICTORY." THE EDITORIAL VILIFIED THE GKR AS A " RAG- TAG GANG, A HORDE OF ODIIOUS TRAITORS" WHOM THE US HAD /" SALVAGED" FROM THE " DUST- BIN OF HISTORY." IT ADDED THAT A " FINAL SOLUTION" TO THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM COULD BE REACHED ONLY WITH THE " INSTALLATION" OF THE KHMER INSURGENTS IN PHNOM PENH.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 SAIGON 06562 02 OF 02 171540 Z

R

III. ECONOMIC

A. PRICES

5. BDD LON RETAIL PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 16 DECLINED FOR THE THIRD WZEK IN A ROW. THE OVERALL INDEX WAS DOWN 0.7 PERCENT. THE FOOD SIDE OF THE INDEX WENT DOWN 1.1 PERCENT LED BY MEAT AND FISH PRODUCTS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN

OVER A MONTH PORK PRICES SHOWED NO INCREASE. DOMESTIC RICE PRICES REMAINED STABLE, BUT U. S. RICE PRICES INCREASED AN ADDITIONAL 4 PERCENT AS A RESULT OF OFFICIAL POLICY TO KEEP THEM HIGH AND TO MAXIMIZE USE OF DOMESTIC RICE. THE NON- FOOD SIDE OF THE INDEX INCREASED 0.4 PERCENT ENTIRELY ON THE STRENGTH OF A 7 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF LAUNDRY SOAP WHICH APPARENTLY IS STILL ADJUSTING TO THE HIGHER PRICES FOR PETROLEUM- DERIVED INGREDIENTS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT PRICES WILL REMAIN REASONABLY STABLE AND POSSIBLY EVEN CONTINUE A MODEST DECLINE IN THE SHORT TERM.

B. BLACK MARKET CURRENCY AND GOLD RATES

THE STEADY AND RAPID DECLINE OF BLACK MARKET CURRENCY RATES BEGUN IN EARLY MARCH HAS BROUGHT THEM DOWN TO LEVELS NOT FOR ABOVE THE LEGAL EXCHANGE RATE OF 475 TO 1. \$100 GREEN BROUGHT ONLY 495 TO THE DOLLAR ON APRIL 15, DOWN FROM THE HIGH OF 585 ON MARCH 5. \$10 GREEN WAS DOWN TO 488 FROM 580 ON THE SAME DATES. BLACK MARKET CURRENCY ACTIVITY IS VIRTUALLY NIL. THE ONCE PRIZED MPC CAN ONLY BE SEEN NOW AS A SOUVENIR ITEM ON BAR WALLS. THE HK\$/ VN\$ CROSSRATE WITH HK\$/ US\$ ALSO CONTINUED TO DECLINE FROM 539 ON APRIL 7 TO 520 ON APRIL 14. THE PRICE OF GOLD, 45,700 PER TAEI 24 CARAT GOLD ON APRIL 7 DROPPED OFF SLIGHTLY TO 45,500 ON APRIL 14. THAT TRANSLATES TO US\$79.45 PER TROY OUNCE AT THE LEGAL EXCHANGE RATE (475) OR US\$76.24 AT THE BLACK MARKET CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE FOR \$100 GREEN (495). THAT COMPARES WITH THE HONG KONG GOLD PRICE OF US\$88.50 PER TROY OUNCE QUOTED AS OF APRIL 14.

C. EXPORTS

FIRST QUARTER 1973 RECEIPTS FOR EXPORTS REPORTED BY THE NATIONAL BANK WERE 11.0 MILLION U. S. DOLLARS VERSUS A 1972 FIRST QUARTER FIGURE OF 5.4 MILLION. THIS IS ENCOURAGINGLY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE TOWARD THE PROJECTED 1973 TOTAL OF 40 MILLION DOLLARS. DOLLAR EARNINGS WERE LARGEST FOR FOREST PRODUCTS, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 SAIGON 06562 02 OF 02 171540 Z

FORZEN SEA PRODUCTS, SCRAP METAL AND RUBBER.
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 07 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06562
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730460/abqcehpt.tel
Line Count: 422
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980122
Subject: EMBASSY SAIGON' S MISSION WEEKLY APRIL 11-17, 1973
TAGS: ECON, PFOR, PINT
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
CANBERRA
JAKARTA
LONDON
MANILA
MOSCOW

OTTAWA
PARIS
PHNOM PENH
SEOUL
TOKYO
USIA
VIENTIANE
WARSAW
WELLINGTON
JEC FRANCE
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG BANGKOK
WHITE HOUSE
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
USAFKCMC
AMCONGEN BIEN HOA
AMCONGEN CAN THO
AMCONGEN DANANG
AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
CO TH PSYOPS GP OKINAWA
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005